

*Perez*  
By *McDonald*  
*Vogel*  
*more*  
*Suggs*

FOURTH CALLED SESSION

H.R. No. 133

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Don Juan de Onate, son of a wealthy miner in  
2 Zacatecas, Mexico, led the first major colonization effort into  
3 what is now the United States, and he began this momentous journey  
4 in January 1598, nearly a quarter of a century before the Mayflower  
5 sailed from England; and

6 WHEREAS, Some 400 brave and courageous men, 130 of whom  
7 brought their families, and some Franciscans and all of their  
8 possessions were packed into 83 ox-drawn, wooden-wheeled wagons and  
9 carts; with 7,000 to 8,000 horses, oxen, sheep, goats, and cattle,  
10 they formed a four-mile-long procession walking through the desert;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, These colonists began their journey from Santa  
13 Barbara, Mexico, and carved a new and shorter trail along what now  
14 forms Mexico Highway 45 from Chihuahua City north to El Paso  
15 (previous explorers had followed the Rio Concho to its junction  
16 with the Rio Grande, thence followed the Rio Grande toward present  
17 day El Paso); and

18 WHEREAS, After plodding through the torturous desert for more  
19 than four months, often forced to eat roots and berries and to  
20 drink water from the occasional water holes or from cactus and  
21 other plants, these weary and ragged pathfinders arrived at the  
22 banks of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo in Mexico) on April 20, 1598;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, For 10 days they swam in the deep cool waters of the

1 Rio Grande, rested in the shade of the giant cottonwoods, hunted,  
2 fished, and ate as they had not eaten in months; and

3 WHEREAS, Then, on April 30, 1598, Don Juan de Onate ordered  
4 the colonists to dress in their best clothes and to gather for a  
5 feast of thanksgiving; and

6 WHEREAS, He memorialized the occasion with a proclamation (La  
7 Toma) that claimed the land for the king of Spain, and a play, the  
8 first in America, was created and presented; a reenactment of this  
9 event takes place every year on the last Sunday in April in El  
10 Paso; and

11 WHEREAS, More than two decades before the Pilgrims landed at  
12 Plymouth Rock, these colonists from Mexico ate and drank and gave  
13 thanks for the welcome bounty of their new land; now, therefore, be  
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 71st Texas  
16 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby acknowledge that Texas, and  
17 more specifically a site in present-day San Elizario near the city  
18 of El Paso, is the location of the first Thanksgiving celebration  
19 by colonists in America; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 forwarded to the House of Representatives of Massachusetts as a  
22 formal request that its members also adopt a resolution  
23 acknowledging that the first Thanksgiving celebration by American  
24 colonists occurred in Texas on April 30, 1598.

F  
**ENROLLED**

H.R. No. 133

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McDonald  
Perez  
Vowell  
Moreno of El Paso  
Haggerty

Lewis  
Alexander  
Arnold  
Barton  
Beauchamp  
Berlanga  
Black  
Blackwood  
Blair  
Brimer  
Cain  
Campbell  
Carter  
Cavazos  
Chisum  
Clemons  
Colbert  
Collazo  
Conley  
Connelly  
Counts  
Craddick  
Crawford  
Criss  
Cuellar of Webb  
Cuellar of Hidalgo  
Culbertson  
Danburg  
Delco  
Denton  
Dutton  
Earley  
Eckels  
Edge  
Edwards  
Evans  
Finnell  
Fraser  
Garcia  
Gavin  
Gibson  
Glossbrenner  
Goolsby  
Granoff  
Grusendorf  
Guerrero  
Haggerty  
Hammond  
Harris of Tarrant  
Harris of Brazoria

Harrison  
Hartland  
Heflin  
Hightower  
Hilbert  
Hilderbran  
A. Hill of Dallas  
F. Hill of Dallas  
P. Hill of Dallas  
Hinojosa  
Hollowell  
Holzheuser  
Horn  
Hudson of Smith  
Hudson of Dallas  
Hunter of Taylor  
Hunter of Nueces  
Hury  
Jackson  
Johnson of Nacogdoches  
Johnson of Collin  
Jones  
Junell  
Kubiak  
Kuempel  
Laney  
Larry  
Lewis of Orange  
Linebarger  
Lucio  
Luna of Harris  
Luna of Bexar  
McCollough  
McDonald  
McKinney  
McWilliams  
Madla  
Marchant  
Martinez  
Melton  
Morales  
Moreno of Hidalgo  
Moreno of El Paso  
Mowery  
Oakley  
Ovard  
Park  
Parker  
Patterson  
Pennington

Perez  
Perry  
Pierce  
Polumbo  
Price  
Rangel  
Repp  
Richardson  
Robinson  
Robnett  
Rodriguez  
Rudd  
Russell  
Saunders  
Schoolcraft  
Seidlits  
Shea  
Shelley  
Shine  
A. Smith of Harris  
D. Smith of Harris  
Smith of Brazos  
Smith of Travis  
Smithee  
Soileau  
Stiles  
Swift  
Tallas  
Taylor  
Telford  
Thomas  
Thompson of Tarrant  
Thompson of Harris  
Turner  
Uher  
Valigura  
VanderVoort  
Vowell  
Wallace  
Warner  
Waterfield  
Watkins  
Wentworth  
Williamson  
Willis  
Willy  
Wilson  
Wolens  
Wright  
Yost

H.R. No. 133

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 133 was adopted by the House on April 23, 1990, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 133 was adopted by the House on

April 23<sup>(1)</sup>, 1990, by a non-record vote.  
(2)

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Chief Clerk of the House

\*\*\*\* Preparation: 'A;CT4;

*add names*

H. R. No.

133

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Recognizing San Elizario in El Paso County as the site of the first Thanksgiving celebration by colonists in America.

By

Perez  
McDonald  
Vowell  
Pawley  
Haggins

APR 17 1990

1. Filed with the Chief Clerk of the House.

APR 18 1990

2. Read first time and: adopted  
referred to Committee on

Rules & Resolution

3. Reported \_\_\_ favorably (as amended) and sent to Printer at

4. Printed and distributed at

5. Sent to Committee on Calendars at

APR 23 1990

6. Read and (adopted) ~~Unanimous~~ (as amended) by (Non-Record Vote)

APR 23 1990

7. Ordered Enrolled at

2:17 pm

8. Enrolled.

APR 23 1990

NOTION TO SUSPEND ALL NECESSARY RULES IN  
ORDER TO TAKE UP AND CONSIDER AT THIS TIME  
PREVAILED BY NON-RECORD VOTE.

Add names of all members

Betty Murray  
Chief Clerk of the House